THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for generating an electronic clinical medical record from a given patient encounter, comprising the steps of:

(a) accepting entry of an identification of an illness for that patient into a data processing system via an input device;

(b) displaying an initial defined retrievable clinical lexicon for the illness via the input device, the defined retrievable clinical lexicon comprising words and phrases associated with the illness;

(c) accepting selection of a subset of words and phrases from the displayed defined retrievable clinical lexicon for the patient encounter; and then

(d) generating a clinical medical record from the selected subset of words and phrases.

2.   The method according to claim 1, wherein step (b) comprises simultaneously displaying the words and phrases of the defined retrievable clinical lexicon.

3.   The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

(e)   adding a word or phrase to the defined retrievable clinical lexicon after the displaying step so that the word or phrase may be incorporated into the clinical medical record.

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4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

(f) deleting a word or phrase from the defined retrievable clinical lexicon after the word or phrase is not selected after a predetermined number of patient encounters in which the defined retrievable clinical lexicon containing the word or phrase is displayed.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein step (d) is carried out with a natural language generator.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the input device comprises a touch tablet display.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein a previous clinical medical record exists for the patient, and wherein the defined retrievable clinical lexicon is modified via information contained within the previous clinical medical record.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein step (c) further comprises accepting selection of patient anatomic information from a displayed anatomic reference chart.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein step (c) further comprises accepting selection of a numeric indicator of severity of a patient condition.

10. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

(g) displaying information about medical conditions of members of a patient's family via a genetic tree.

11. A method for generating an electronic clinical medical record from a given patient encounter, comprising the steps of:

(a) accepting entry of an identification of an illness for the patient into a data processing system via an input device;

(b) displaying an initial defined retrievable clinical lexicon for the illness via the input device, the defined retrievable clinical lexicon comprising words and phrases associated with the illness;

(c) accepting entry of an identification of at least one existing medical condition or prior medical treatment for the patient into the data processing system via the input device;

(d) displaying a subsequent defined retrievable clinical lexicon for at least one of the existing medical condition or prior medical treatment via the input device;

(e) accepting selection of a subset of words and phrases from the displayed initial and subsequent defined retrievable clinical lexicons for the patient encounter; and then

(f) generating a clinical medical record from the selected subset of words and phrases.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein steps *(b)* and *(d)* each comprise simultaneously displaying the words and phrases of the defined retrievable clinical lexicon.

13. The method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of:

(g) adding a word or phrase to the defined retrievable clinical lexicon after the displaying step so that the word or phrase may be incorporated into the clinical medical record.

14. The method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of:

(h) deleting a word or phrase from the defined retrievable clinical lexicon after the word or phrase is not selected after a predetermined number of patient encounters in which the defined retrievable clinical lexicon containing the word or phrase is displayed.

15. The method according to claim 11, wherein step *(f)* is carried out with a natural language generator.

16. The method according to claim 11, wherein the input device comprises a touch tablet display.

17. A method for generating a plurality of searchable electronic clinical medical records from a plurality of patient encounters between different

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patients and different clinicians, comprising the steps
of:

(a) accepting entry into a data processing
system via an input device an identification of an
illness for a patient during a given patient encounter;

(b) displaying a defined retrievable clinical
lexicon for the illness via the input device, the
defined retrievable clinical lexicon comprising words
and phrases associated with the illness;

(c) accepting selection of a subset of words
and phrases from the displayed defined retrievable
clinical lexicon;

(d) generating a clinical medical record from
the selected subset of words and phrases for the
patient encounter; then

(e) repeating steps (a) to (d) above for a
plurality of additional different patients during a
plurality of different patient encounters to create a
plurality of separate clinical medical records for the
plurality of patients;

(f) searching the plurality of separate
clinical medical records for at least one word or
phrase; and then

(g) generating a report indicating those
separate clinical medical records from among the
plurality of separate clinical medical records
containing the at least one word or phrase.

18. The method according to claim 17,
further comprising the step of (h) performing
statistical analysis on the plurality of separate
clinical medical records.

19. The method according to claim 18, wherein step *(h)* comprises performing regression analysis or multivariate analysis.

20. A system that generates an electronic clinical medical record from a given patient encounter, comprising:

means for accepting entry of an
5 identification of an illness for that patient into a data processing system via an input device;

means for displaying an initial defined retrievable clinical lexicon for the illness via the input device, the defined retrievable clinical lexicon
10 comprising words and phrases associated with the illness;

means for accepting selection of a subset of words and phrases from the displayed defined retrievable clinical lexicon for the patient encounter;
15 and

means for generating a clinical medical record from the selected subset of words and phrases.

21. The system according to claim 20, wherein the means for displaying an initial defined retrievable clinical lexicon comprises means for simultaneously displaying the words and phrases of the
5 defined retrievable clinical lexicon.

22. The system according to claim 20, further comprising means for adding a word or phrase to the defined retrievable clinical lexicon so that the

word or phrase may be incorporated into the clinical

5   medical record.

23.   The system according to claim 20, further comprising means for deleting a word or phrase from the defined retrievable clinical lexicon after the word or phrase is not selected after a predetermined

5   number of patient encounters in which the defined retrievable clinical lexicon containing the word or phrase is displayed.

24.   The system according to claim 20, wherein the means for generating a clinical medical record from the selected subset of words and phrases comprises a natural language generator.

25.   The system according to claim 20, wherein the input device comprises a touch tablet display.

26.   The system according to claim 20, wherein a previous clinical medical record exists for the patient, and wherein the defined retrievable clinical lexicon is modified via information contained

5   within the previous clinical medical record.

27.   The system according to claim 20, further comprising means for accepting selection of patient anatomic information from a displayed anatomic reference chart.

28. The system according to claim 20, further comprising means for accepting selection of a numeric indicator of severity of a patient condition.

29. The system according to claim 20, further comprising means for displaying information about medical conditions of members of a patient's family via a genetic tree.

30. A system that generates an electronic clinical medical record from a given patient encounter, comprising:

means for accepting entry of an
5   identification of an illness for the patient into a data processing system via an input device;

means for displaying an initial defined retrievable clinical lexicon for the illness via the input device, the defined retrievable clinical lexicon
10   comprising words and phrases associated with the illness;

means for accepting entry of an identification of at least one existing medical condition or prior medical treatment for the patient
15   into the data processing system via the input device;

means for displaying a subsequent defined retrievable clinical lexicon for at least one of the existing medical condition or prior medical treatment via the input device;

20   means for accepting selection of a subset of words and phrases from the displayed initial and subsequent defined retrievable clinical lexicons for the patient encounter; and

means for generating a clinical medical

25   record from the selected subset of words and phrases.

31.   The system according to claim 30, wherein the means for displaying initial and subsequent defined retrievable clinical lexicons comprises means for simultaneously displaying words and phrases.

32.   The system according to claim 30, further comprising means for adding a word or phrase to the defined retrievable clinical lexicon so that the word or phrase may be incorporated into the clinical

5   medical record.

33.   The system according to claim 30, further comprising means for deleting a word or phrase from the defined retrievable clinical lexicon after the word or phrase is not selected after a predetermined

5   number of patient encounters in which the defined retrievable clinical lexicon containing the word or phrase is displayed.

34.   The system according to claim 30, wherein the means for generating a clinical medical record from the selected subset of words and phrases comprises a natural language generator.

35.   The system according to claim 30, wherein the input device comprises a touch tablet display.

36. A system for generating a plurality of searchable electronic clinical medical records from a plurality of patient encounters between different patients and different clinicians, comprising:

means for accepting entry into a data processing system via an input device an identification of an illness for each of a plurality of patients during a respective plurality of patient encounters;

means for displaying a respective defined retrievable clinical lexicon for an illness for each of the plurality of patients via the input device, each respective defined retrievable clinical lexicon comprising words and phrases associated with an illness;

means for accepting selection of a subset of words and phrases from each respective displayed defined retrievable clinical lexicon;

means for generating a respective clinical medical record for each patient from words and phrases selected from a respective displayed defined retrievable clinical lexicon;

means for searching the plurality of separate clinical medical records for at least one word or phrase; and

means for generating a report indicating those separate clinical medical records from among the plurality of separate clinical medical records containing the at least one word or phrase.

37. The system according to claim 36, further comprising means for performing statistical

analysis on the plurality of separate clinical medical records.

38. The system according to claim 37, wherein the means for performing statistical analysis comprises means for performing regression analysis or multivariate analysis.

39. A computer program product that generates an electronic clinical medical record from a given patient encounter, the computer program product comprising a computer usable storage medium having
5 computer readable program code embodied in the medium, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code that accepts entry of an identification of an illness for that patient into a data processing system via an input
10 device;

computer readable program code displays an initial defined retrievable clinical lexicon for the illness via the input device, the defined retrievable clinical lexicon comprising words and phrases
15 associated with the illness;

computer readable program code that accepts selection of a subset of words and phrases from the displayed defined retrievable clinical lexicon for the patient encounter; and
20 computer readable program code that generates a clinical medical record from the selected subset of words and phrases.

40. The computer program product according to claim 39, wherein the computer readable program code that displays an initial defined retrievable clinical lexicon comprises computer readable program code that simultaneously displays the words and phrases of the defined retrievable clinical lexicon.

41. The computer program product according to claim 39, further comprising computer readable program code that adds a word or phrase to the defined retrievable clinical lexicon so that the word or phrase may be incorporated into the clinical medical record.

42. The computer program product according to claim 39, further comprising computer readable program code that deletes a word or phrase from the defined retrievable clinical lexicon after the word or phrase is not selected after a predetermined number of patient encounters in which the defined retrievable clinical lexicon containing the word or phrase is displayed.

43. The computer program product according to claim 39, wherein the computer readable program code that generates a clinical medical record from the selected subset of words and phrases comprises a natural language generator.

44. The computer program product according to claim 39, wherein the input device comprises a touch tablet display.

45. The computer program product according to claim 39, wherein a previous clinical medical record exists for the patient, and wherein the defined retrievable clinical lexicon is modified via

5   information contained within the previous clinical medical record.

46. The computer program product according to claim 39, further comprising computer readable program code that accepts selection of patient anatomic information from a displayed anatomic reference chart.

47. The computer program product according to claim 39, further comprising computer readable program code that accepts selection of a numeric indicator of severity of a patient condition.

48. The computer program product according to claim 39, further comprising computer readable program code that displays information about medical conditions of members of a patient's family via a

5   genetic tree.

49. A computer program product that generates an electronic clinical medical record from a given patient encounter, the computer program product comprising a computer usable storage medium having

5   computer readable program code embodied in the medium, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code that accepts entry of an identification of an illness for the

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patient into a data processing system via an input
device;

computer readable program code that displays
an initial defined retrievable clinical lexicon for the
illness via the input device, the defined retrievable
clinical lexicon comprising words and phrases
associated with the illness;

computer readable program code that accepts
entry of an identification of at least one existing
medical condition or prior medical treatment for the
patient into the data processing system via the input
device;

computer readable program code that displays
a subsequent defined retrievable clinical lexicon for
at least one of the existing medical condition or prior
medical treatment via the input device;

computer readable program code that accepts
selection of a subset of words and phrases from the
displayed initial and subsequent defined retrievable
clinical lexicons for the patient encounter; and

computer readable program code that generates
a clinical medical record from the selected subset of
words and phrases.

50. The computer program product according
to claim 49, wherein the computer readable program code
that displays initial and subsequent defined
retrievable clinical lexicons comprises computer
readable program code that simultaneously displays
words and phrases.

51. The computer program product according to claim 49, further comprising computer readable program code that adds a word or phrase to the defined retrievable clinical lexicon so that the word or phrase may be incorporated into the clinical medical record.

52. The computer program product according to claim 49, further comprising computer readable program code that deletes a word or phrase from the defined retrievable clinical lexicon after the word or phrase is not selected after a predetermined number of patient encounters in which the defined retrievable clinical lexicon containing the word or phrase is displayed.

53. The computer program product according to claim 49, wherein the computer readable program code that generates a clinical medical record from the selected subset of words and phrases comprises a natural language generator.

54. The computer program product according to claim 49, wherein the input device comprises a touch tablet display.

55. A computer program product for generating a plurality of searchable electronic clinical medical records from a plurality of patient encounters between different patients and different clinicians, the computer program product comprising a computer usable storage medium having computer readable

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program code embodied in the medium, the computer
readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code that accepts
entry into a data processing system via an input device
an identification of an illness for each of a plurality
of patients during a respective plurality of patient
encounters;

computer readable program code that displays
a respective defined retrievable clinical lexicon for
an illness for each of the plurality of patients via
the input device, each respective defined retrievable
clinical lexicon comprising words and phrases
associated with an illness;

computer readable program code that accepts
selection of a subset of words and phrases from each
respective displayed defined retrievable clinical
lexicon;

computer readable program code that generates
a respective clinical medical record for each patient
from words and phrases selected from a respective
displayed defined retrievable clinical lexicon;

computer readable program code that searches
the plurality of separate clinical medical records for
at least one word or phrase; and

computer readable program code that generates
a report indicating those separate clinical medical
records from among the plurality of separate clinical
medical records containing the at least one word or
phrase.

56. The computer program product according
to claim 55, further comprising computer readable

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program code that performs statistical analysis on the plurality of separate clinical medical records.

57.   The computer program product according to claim 55, wherein the computer readable program code that performs statistical analysis comprises computer readable program code that performs regression analysis or multivariate analysis.